



WATER SAFETY

Learn

How to Swim

Wear

Your Life Jacket

Take

A Boating Safety Class

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT WATER SAFETY?

Water Safety

Who must take boater education?

- a. Anyone born on or after September 1, 1993
- b. Persons 13 to 17 years old
- c. Persons 12 years old
- d. Everyone

Water Safety

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Water Safety

Texas law requires that a PWC (personal watercraft operator) must wear a Life Jacket.

- a. True
- b. False

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What is the purpose of the ignition safety switch lanyard, also called a kill switch on a PWC or a powerboat?

- a. To keep a throwable PFD from falling overboard
- b. To keep the operator from falling overboard
- c. To secure the PWC to its trailer to prevent theft
- d. To shut off the engine if the operator falls overboard

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Water Safety

By law, Life Jackets must be?

- a. Coast Guard approved
- b. In good serviceable condition
- c. Readily accessible
- d. All of the above

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Water Safety

What factors increase the risk of drowning?

- a. Lack of swimming ability
- b. Weather
- c. Lack of supervision
- d. All the above

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A man and a woman are sitting in a white inflatable boat on a body of water. They are both wearing blue life jackets with reflective white stripes. The woman is on the left, smiling and looking towards the man. The man is on the right, also smiling and looking towards the woman. The background shows a sunset with orange and yellow light on the horizon, silhouettes of trees, and a small white buoy in the distance.

watch “Never Happens”

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Water Safety

Facts:

- ▣ About 1 in 5 people who die from drowning are children – ages 14 and younger.
- ▣ For every child who dies from drowning, another 5 have injuries that send them to the emergency room.
- ▣ Over 50% of drowning victims treated in emergency rooms require hospitalization or further care (compared with a hospitalization rate of about 6% for all unintentional injuries).

Water Safety

Facts:

- ❑ There are more than 625,000 registered boats in Texas, ranking it 6th in the nation. Canoes and Kayaks are not registered in Texas.
- ❑ 1 out of 6 Texans or 4,360,000 million participate in motor boating activities very year.
- ❑ In Texas there was a dramatic decrease in boating related fatalities from a high of 61 in 2008 to 27 in 2010 and 2012.



Nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage.

Water Safety

Factors that increase risk:

- ▣ **Lack of Swimming Ability:** Many adults and children report that they can't swim.
- ▣ **Lack of Close Supervision:** Drowning can happen quickly and quietly anywhere there is water and even in the presence of lifeguards.
- ▣ **Location:** More than half of fatal and nonfatal drownings among those 15 years and older occurred in natural water settings.

Water Safety

Factors that increase risk:

- ❑ **Failure to Wear Life Jackets:** Annually over 70% of the boating deaths that occur are caused by drowning, with over 80% of victims not wearing life jackets.
- ❑ **Alcohol Use:** Among adolescents and adults, alcohol use is involved in up to 70% of deaths associated with water recreation.

Water Safety

Factors that Decrease risk:

- ▣ **Swimming skills help – Learn to Swim:** Statistics showed that taking part in formal swimming lessons reduces the risk of drowning among children aged 1 to 4 years.
- ▣ **Life jackets can reduce risk – Wear it:** Potentially, 75% of all boating related deaths might be prevented with the use of life jackets.

Water Safety

Factors that Decrease risk:

- ▣ **Take a Boating Safety Course:** Boaters who take a boater safety course are less likely to be involved in an accident. In Texas a person born on or after September 1, 1993 must take a boating safety course to operate a power vessel.
- ▣ **Seconds count—learn CPR:** CPR performed by bystanders has been shown to save lives and improve outcomes in drowning victims. The more quickly CPR is started, the better the chance of an improved outcome.

Water Safety

Factors that Decrease risk:

- ▣ **Supervise When in or Around Water:** Designate a responsible adult to watch young children while in the bath and all children swimming or playing in or around water.
- ▣ **Avoid Alcohol:** Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming, boating, or water skiing. Do not drink alcohol while supervising children.

Water Safety

Texas Required Equipment Checklist

	PWC	Boat less than 16 Ft	Boat 16 to < 26 Ft
Boater Education Certification Card and Photographic Identification On-Board	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 1
Certificate of Number On Board	✓	✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓
Life Jackets: Type I, II, III, or V	✓ 2	✓ 3	✓ 3
Life Jackets: Type IV			✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher	✓	✓	✓
Ignition Safety Switch	✓		
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	✓ 4	✓ 4
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler	✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell	✓	✓	✓
Daytime Visual Distress Signals			✓ 5
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	6	✓ 5	✓ 5
Navigation Lights	6	✓	✓

1. For all Power and Sail Boat operators born on or after September 1, 1993.
2. Those on PWCs must *wear* a Life Jacket at all times.
3. Those under the age of 13 must *wear* a Life Jacket at all times while underway.
4. Required on boats with inboard engines or stern drives.
5. Required when boating on federally controlled waters.
6. Certain items are not applicable to PWCs because they are not allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise.

Water Safety

Legal Boating Points of Confusion

Life Jacket Use on PWC vs. Boats

**PWC: Must wear a Life Jacket at all times regardless of age.
(Inflatable Life Jackets not permitted)**

- ❑ **Boat: Required for Children under the age of 13.
(Must be 16 years old to wear an Inflatable Life Jacket)**

Ignition Safety Cut-off Switch Use:

- ❑ **PWC: Must be attached at all times while underway**
- ❑ **Boat: Highly recommended**

Water Safety

Legal Boating Points of Confusion

Minimum Safe Distances:

- ❑ **PWC:** May not operate within 50 feet of anything or anyone except at headway speed.
(Headway Speed = Slow, idle speed, or no wake speed)
- ❑ **Diver Down Flag:** No vessel may operate within 50 feet of a Diver Down Flag and must slow to headway speed within 150 feet.
- ❑ **Homeland Security Restriction:** Do not approach within 100 yards of any U.S Naval vessel and slow to headway speed within 500 yards.

Water Safety

Legal Boating Points of Confusion

Legal Operating Hours for Personal Water Craft (PWC) “Jet Ski” & “Towable Water Sports”


- ▣ PWC Operation: Sunrise to Sunset
- ▣ Towable Water Sports: ½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset

(PWCs may never operate at night, even if equipped with running lights.)

Boat Registration:

- ▣ Once a vessel is equipped with any form of mechanical propulsion, it must be registered .Electric Trolling Motors included.





WATER SAFETY QUESTIONS

Water Safety

Among adolescents and adults, alcohol use is involved in up to 70% of deaths associated with water recreation activities.

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- b. False

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Water Safety

One in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger.

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More than half of fatal and nonfatal drownings among those 15 years of age and older occurred in bath tubs.

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Water Safety

Swimming with a friend or family member and close supervision of children are factors that reduce the risk of drowning.

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Water Safety

A PWC is required to have which of these on-board? (there may be more than one correct answer)

- a. Navigation Lights
- b. Distress Signals
- c. Whistle
- d. Certificate of Number

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Resources

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#)

[The American Red Cross](#)

[Texas Department of Family & Protective Services](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



REMEMBER WATER SAFETY

Because
“Never Happens”

